The Builder.

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AMONGST the architectural works recently published, is one that brings prominently forward the efforts that are now being made by the Wesleyan Methodists to obtain a better class of buildings for religious and scholastic purposes. It is entitled "Chapel and School Architecture,"[1] by the Rev. F. J. Jobson, and although the designs which it gives are mostly of indifferent character (all of one type, and that a common one), it sets forth good principles (so far as it goes), and will doubtless have a good effect in the desired direction. Mr. Jobson, it seems, passed the earlier part of his life in the study of ecclesiastical architecture under Mr. E. J. Willson, of Lincoln, and when he went into the practical working of Methodism could not but lament the unfit, incongruous, and unsightly forms of its buildings for worship. This led him to urge improvement in this respect, through the press, and the book before us is his last endeavour. He properly urges that true as it is that the Infinite Majesty doth

> "Before all temples th' upright heart and pure
> prefer;"

yet, "If the hand have made no worthy effort to realise a 'House of God,' while the houses of men, whether for the purposes of art or science, for offices of dignity or assemblies of amusement, are built and adorned with every resource of wealth and skill, surely professing piety cannot acquit itself of half-heartedness, or something worse."

Although Christianity is emphatically a spiritual religion, it is not requisite for the preservation of its pureness that it should be clothed in common and ugly forms, that the external means of awakening and increasing pious feelings should be disregarded, and that while we lay art and science under contribution for the construction and adornment of our own houses, the House of God is to be mean and repulsive. The reverse is the case: it is the duty of man to consecrate his best works to such a service, and to make manifest his belief and reverence by worthily distinguishing the places of Divine worship.

The educational effect of a fine building is not overlooked by the author. "Deformity shocks the universal taste of civilised man. How symmetrical, how simple and pleasing, in their forms, are all the works of God! Were not the architecture of the heavens, and the furniture of the earth, together with their various and important purposes, intended to educate the mind of man, and to refine his taste? It is impossible to tell the full amount of the beneficially refining influence suffusing man amidst the forms of beauty and grandeur—the work of the Divine hand—with which he is perpetually surrounded. And he who can look up to the vaulted heavens without feeling his mind expanded, or behold a simple flower without feeling tenderness excited, is but an inapt and irreverent scholar of the all-pervading and all-beneficent Teacher!"

Elsewhere he says:—"Genius for the production of Art—is it not from God, from 'whom cometh every perfect gift?' And should it not, then, be consecrated to him? For a time, Music has taken refuge in concert-halls and opera-houses; Sculpture has employed her chisel and mallet on carving, in Italian marble, figures of licentious gods and goddesses; and Painting has defiled her pencil in portraying scenes of revelry and drunkenness, or has debased it in representing to the life pampered puppy-dogs and favourite race-horses. But shall Art, in Christian England, never be rescued from this degraded position? Shall it never employ its marvellous and elevating power for Religion? Every reflecting Christian will give an affirmative answer in his own mind."

In his second and third chapters, which are devoted to showing that the Gothic style of architecture is the most appropriate to ecclesiastical purposes, the author gives a brief sketch of the progress of Gothic architecture.

In 1846 a committee was appointed to consider the requirements of Methodism in its chapel-building department, and obtain plans from architects which might be recommended as models. Various regulations were agreed upon, which were forwarded in the shape of instructions to a certain number of architects, that they might furnish designs in accordance with these views. A small sum was paid to each architect, and a premium of 50 guineas was offered for the most suitable design. This premium was awarded to Mr. Wilson, of Bath, who has since been largely employed by the body.

The Wesleyans have shown what may be done by union: large sums of money have been raised, and a number of chapels have been built, which, if not entitled to unqualified praise, mark an era of no slight importance in Methodist architecture. We will mention a few in London and its neighbourhood. Poplar Chapel is of the Decorated style, 105 feet long by 60 feet wide; is built of Kentish rag-stone, with Caen stone dressings; will seat 1,500 persons, and cost about 4,000*l*. The New North-road Chapel, Hoxton, is Anglo-Norman in style, and is 85 feet long, including the vestries, by 52 feet wide. It is built of brick and Bath stone; will accommodate 1,200 persons, and cost 3,700*l*. The chapel of St. John's-square, Clerkenwell, is built of brick and Bath stone; is 70 feet long by 60 wide; will accommodate 1,300 persons, has a school-room, &c., and cost 4,000*l*. Jewin-street Chapel is Early English in style, 68 feet by 52 feet; seats 1,100 persons; is built of white brick and Bath stone, and cost 2,700*l*. The Islington Chapel (in the Liverpool-road) measures 90 feet long by 54 feet wide, and will accommodate 1,500 persons. It is built of Kentish rag and Bath stone; is in the Decorated style, and cost about 6,000*l*.

The most important work now being executed for the Wesleyans is the Normal and Practising Schools, Westminster, recently mentioned in our pages. The principal entrance is from the Horseferry-road; the lodge entrance from Allington-street; and the back entrances from Little Peter-street, and through a passage from Great Peter-street, giving access to the several schools from all parts of the populous neighbourhood around. The house of the principal forms the front entrance in Horseferry-road, and has associated with it offices, and committee-rooms, necessary for transacting the business of the establishment. This building is of the Tudor style of Architecture, and is constructed of Sneaton stone, with dressings and quoins of Bath stone, faced.

Mr. Jobson's book furnishes some particulars that will serve to show the extent of this establishment. The front building in the Horseferry-road is composed of three gabled bays, in each of which is a corbel window, two stories high, and finished with string course and battlements:—

Under this building is an arched gateway, which gives access to the quadrangle of the training department. This quadrangle, formed by the buildings appropriated to the students in the front, by the dining-hall on the right, and by the lecture-hall on the left, is of the same style of architecture as the principal's house; but it has windows and buttresses more decidedly ecclesiastical in their forms, and thus assumes more fully the collegiate character. The entrance to the range of buildings appropriated to the students under training, is by a flight of steps leading to a raised terrace, and by a large door in the centre, which gives access to the lecture-rooms, class-rooms, and the dormitories for sixty male students, and forty female students. The more private rooms, such as dormitories and lavatories, are so arranged that the students of each sex are on separate floors, and these rooms are approached by separate staircases. The dining-hall is a large room, having a panelled ceiling. The lecture-hall is of similar character, but somewhat larger, and has an open timber-roof.

Passing through the central building, the visiter arrives at the second, or inner quadrangle, which is formed by the several school-rooms, ranging principally on the left-hand side, in a line with the Lecture-Hall. This range of buildings contains four schools for the use of infants, juveniles of both sexes, and for senior boys; with class-rooms, lavatories, &c. Each school-room is 60 feet long by 30 feet wide and 20 feet high, and contains a gallery. At the farther end of this quadrangle are the houses for the masters, overlooking the play-grounds, into which the enclosed area is divided. Cloisters, or covered play-grounds, extend around the quadrangle, for the use of the children in rainy weather. At the entrance, on the right (from Allington-street), is a lodge for the protection of the premises. In the left corners of the inner quadrangle are two turrets, which supply increased accommodations to the establishment.

Beyond this quadrangle, to the south, is the Model School, raised from the ground on piers, so as to leave a covered area underneath for the use of the children in wet weather. Between this and the other school-rooms, and to the extremity of the premises on the left, is the large open play-ground of the model school. On the right of this is the airing-ground for the senior school, in which will be placed the necessary apparatus for gymnastic exercises.

The establishment of schools is engaging strongly the attention of all denominations of Christians, the Wesleyans amongst them; and we may hope that our children, if not ourselves, will really see the "schoolmaster abroad:" to say that he has yet done more than *begin* his journey is false and hurtful. Let us all strive to further him. Therein lies the hope of the world.

CHROMO-LITHOGRAPHS.—Messrs. Dufour[2] have recently published an excellent representation, printed in colours, of Henry the Seventh's Chapel, Westminster Abbey, and another, to range with it, of the new House of Lords. They are drawn and lithographed by Mr. E. T. Dolby, and printed by Messrs. Hanhart. Of the two, we prefer the first; the blue carpet in the view of the House of Lords is rather a heavy splotch. There is, moreover, a want of distance.

[1] Chapel and School Architecture, as appropriate to the Buildings of Nonconformists, particularly to those of the Wesleyan Methodists, with practical Directions for the Erection of Chapels and School-houses. By the Rev. F. J. Jobson, London: Hamilton, Adams and Co. 1850.

[2] Great George-street, Westminster.

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